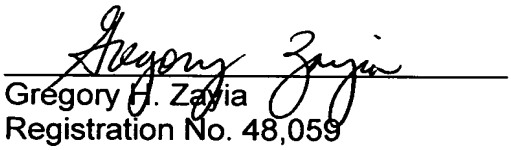
REMARKS

For examination purposes only, Applicants hereby elect without traverse the claims of Group II (i.e., claims 6-13) directed to methods for counting bacteria. Each of claims 6-13 reads on the elected subject matter.

Applicants submit that the application is now ready for examination on the merits. If the Examiner identifies any additional issues of a formal nature that might be expediently resolved by a telephone discussion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned agent directly at (312)-321-4257.

Respectfully submitted,



Gregory H. Zayia
Registration No. 48,059
Agent for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200